

# DESERT RIFLES

The voice of the Riflemen

Edition 11

October 21, 2003



## ROCKHARD!!!!



By MAJ Joel Hamilton, RFSO

**T**he cannoneers of the 2d Battalion, 5<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery, 'Rock Hard,' Battalion, stationed at Fort Sill, Okla., deploy with the troopers of the 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment whenever they conduct operations at the National Training Center, at Fort Irwin, Calif. The deployment of the 3d ACR in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom is no exception. Lt. Col. David Hill, 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn, 5<sup>th</sup> FA Battalion Commander and his cannoneers have fought hard alongside the regimental troopers, truly assimilating into the proud traditions and legacy of the Regiment of Mounted Riflemen. Troopers of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn, 5<sup>th</sup> FA have performed a myriad of stability and support operational missions, performing tasks ranging from their traditional fire support delivery role to security missions of fixed sites and training of Iraqi security protection forces.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn, 5<sup>th</sup> FA trains annually for rotations at NTC, where they usually fire large volumes of artillery munitions in support of 3d ACR troopers engaged in combat with opposing forces. This deployment is unique for the cannoneers in that the majority of their missions are focused upon engaging the local populace with goodwill and civil projects. These missions covered an area of operations that extended more than 30 Km.

According to the Battery A, 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn, 5<sup>th</sup> FA Executive Officer, 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Alex Wright, "We came here expecting to simply be artillerymen, punching rounds down range. We were called on to do many things outside of

the artillery and combined arms aspect, ranging from civilian guard force training, patrolling and site security missions, as well as firing counter-mortar fire and illumination. All soldiers of the battalion have broadened their knowledge base outside of the Artillery realm."

The battalion provided security for the United Nations World Food Program, facilitating their distribution of mainstay food items in the town of Ar Ramadi. A large part of this security mission involved training elements of the new Iraqi Facility Protection Service, whose primary mission is to take over security of the many static sites that Coalition forces are now guarding. 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn, 5<sup>th</sup> FA has successfully completed their train-up of the FPS forces, which now provide security and protection at many of the sites the 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn, 5<sup>th</sup> FA once guarded.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn, 5<sup>th</sup> FA has been given the Regimental mission of training the newly developed Iraqi Civil Defense Corps – the foundation for a secure and prosperous future for all Iraqis.

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**ROCKHARD continued...**

The ICDC is similar in its makeup and mission to the National Guard forces that comprise America's Reserve Component. The Coalition Provisional Authority is establishing the ICDC to help the Coalition with daily internal security operations. The ICDC will consist of 21 battalions, essentially one in each provincial governate, plus four in Baghdad. The ICDC will remain under the control of Coalition forces while it conducts operations in Iraq. Participants in the ICDC will perform tasks such as: linguist or translator support, vehicle drivers, security missions of fixed sites, crowd or riot control, and natural disaster assistance.

The ICDC candidate is locally recruited from their hometown or village with the help of community leaders. Former Iraqi military members are eligible to participate, provided they served below the rank of colonel. By recruiting from within the town they will support, the ICDC members aim to achieve legitimacy from the beginning. The period of service is limited to a year and members can transition into the New Iraqi Army at the end of their service obligation.

Soldiers of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn, 5<sup>th</sup> FA will be responsible for training one ICDC battalion, consisting of 846 members, for the entire Al Anbar province. Al Anbar is the largest province in Iraq and encompasses an area roughly the size of North Carolina. The cannoneers will institute a training academy that administers a 56-hr. program of instruction focusing on the following tasks: proper wear of the uniform, solid understanding of the rules of engagement, weapons training and maintenance, searching a detainee and vehicle, identification of unidentified explosives and improvised explosive devices, basic first aid, familiarization with Coalition rank, understanding basic commands in English, and establishing security at a check point.

The Paladin howitzer systems of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn, 5<sup>th</sup> FA, along with artillery and mortar finding radar systems attached to the Regiment, acquired enemy mortar systems firing and successfully engaged and silenced these systems. While in Ar Ramadi, the guns of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn, 5<sup>th</sup> FA would rotate a dedicated howitzer platoon, known as a "Hot Platoon," with the howitzer batteries of the Regiment, to provide continuous coverage of the Ar Ramadi area. The radar would send its acquisitions to the Regimental fire support element, who would ensure the mission did not violate minimum safe distances to friendly troops and populated areas, and then send the mortar location to the fire direction centers.

"The cannoneers of the 'Rock Hard' Battalion provided timely and accurate fire missions against these mortars every time they were called upon," indicated SFC Boris Bates, 3d ACR Fire Support Non-Commissioned Officer.

## A Bit of Green to Nukayb Iraq

Major Rich Appel,  
432<sup>nd</sup> Civil Affairs BN

**Nukayb, Iraq** The troops of Eagle Troop, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment SABER Squadron received a bit of green in the forms of green backs to deliver to this small rural area consisting of three villages.

The soldiers have been working alongside the local families to help repair and reconstruct facilities that have been terribly damaged and neglected over the past thirty years by the former regime. The resources to bring about these repairs are sparse, but with the \$50,000 that was delivered by Col. David Teeples, commander of 3d ACR and Command Sgt. Maj. John Caldwell, the village will soon be getting a well-deserved face-lift.

The money is part of the commander's discretionary fund that allows the commanders at all levels to identify projects that impact the community, infrastructure and ultimately the Iraqi citizens of the region. Lt. Col Chris Hickey and his troops have been working for weeks with the local people and have found the reception from them to be warm, friendly and very curious. There have been no Improvised Explosive Devices, Rocket Propelled Grenade attacks or ambushes in this region. Just Iraqis working alongside soldiers from 2<sup>nd</sup> Sqdn., 3d ACR Sabers to bring about a better way of life for them and their children.



Colonel Teeples oversees the delivery of \$50,000 to the city of Nukayb.

The target areas that are being repaired are the schools and medical clinics, as these two areas are vital for the children to return back to school, slated to begin during the month of October, and for the clinics to provide the necessary health care for everyone. The joint project began with soldiers and Iraqis sweeping and cleaning the buildings with the limited equipment available. Fig tree branches are used in many cases to sweep and brush down the floor and walls. Brooms, paintbrushes and other items were

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purchased by the regiment and delivered along with the money to make the work more efficient for all.

The intent of the \$50,000 will be to replace and repair the damaged buildings so that they will have water, electricity, windows and a sewer system that will be functioning for the first time in years. The money was handed over to the mayor who will work with Capt. Dave Pallazzo, commander of Eagle Troop who will also supervise the spending to ensure that it is used to benefit the citizens of the village.

The money and supplies were a welcomed gift for the villagers who have been working hand in hand with the Cavalrymen to pick up and clean their own villages and buildings. The successes in this small village and others like it are often not reported as news of attacks continue to be reported throughout the country. Good news projects like this are happening daily throughout Iraq. The majority of the Iraqi's are thankful and welcome us with a handshake and a greeting of Salaam Alaykum – "Peace be upon you".

The village in this southern sector of Iraq is living proof of what they say.



Introducing the Turks to a friendly game of Spades

## WORKING TOGETHER

By 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. J. Wm. Guthrie

Since FT. Carson's 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment first entered the Middle East in early April. The Receipt, Store & Issue Platoon has been hard at work.

Their mission is to sustain the Regiment and its operations through timely distribution of adequate subsistence, ammunition, and bulk water. Immediately upon hitting ground, the RSI Platoon was responsible for ensuring that all the regimental units had enough 'beans and bullets' to meet whatever missions were assigned them.

As one can imagine, feeding the Regiment's (plus attachments) more than 8,000 soldiers can be an extremely challenging task, especially for a unit as small as a platoon. However, the Army has grown wise to this challenge and set in place several host nation and foreign national contracts in order to ease distribution burdens and increase variety in the soldiers' diets. As a result, RSI Platoon has assigned to them an 8-man team of Turkish refrigeration van drivers, as well as significant dealings with both Jordanian and Iraqi truck drivers. "The soldiers are learning so much about the cultures of these people, and how to interact and cooperate with foreign nationals in order to achieve our mission here in Iraq," says SFC Michael Maddrey, Platoon Sergeant for RSI Platoon.

The 8-man team work and live with the soldiers, and have been contracted to the Regiment since early June. They transport all perishable food items from the RSI distribution point in Al Asad, Iraq, to the 3d ACR's remote units, which are located all over northwestern Iraq. CPL Frank Greene, the RSI Platoon subsistence distribution non-commissioned officer, remarked that the soldiers all enjoy working with the Turkish drivers, and consider them "just like another squad. It's a great opportunity for the soldiers to see what the people in this area of the world are really like, and they are building good working relationships and friendships at the same time."

During the day, the soldiers and Turks load trucks for transport, and in the evenings they can be seen eating together, and playing an occasional game of cards or watching a movie. "They cook for us a lot, and they're food is great. I just think they are funny and we swap family stories a lot," says SPC Elaine Gilpin. The Turkish drivers are most noted for preparing interesting native dishes, and their great hospitality towards the American troops. In turn, the soldiers teach them how to play spades, and are exposing them to American music and movies. "We are so happy to be a part of helping the U.S.A. rebuild Iraq," says Munir Ayran, the Turkish foreman.

Many of the soldiers never realized how similar our two cultures are. Pfc. Bridget Smiley thinks that it is wonderful how "gracious the Turks are, and how family oriented" they seem to be. Smiley is a single parent, and her two year old daughter is currently living with her mother. All eight Turkish men are married with children, and have been away from their families for nearly 5 months, while contracted to the 3d ACR.

SSG Robert Geonetta of Fountain, Colo., is the RSI Platoon subsistence section sergeant. Geonetta talks about how difficult it was when the Turkish drivers were first assigned to RSI Platoon. "There was a huge language gap, and I wasn't exactly sure how we were going to work the issue of living together – the soldiers were still very new to the



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deployment, and very wary of foreigners. All that quickly changed when they got to know them, and began to work hand in hand with them in order to support the Regiment.”

Situations such as RSI Platoon's, exist all over Iraq and Kuwait. The U.S. Army is working very closely with both the Iraqi people and surrounding nations, all in efforts to accomplish the Coalition Forces' mission and support its soldiers. Building lasting relationships with these groups is a vital piece of ensuring stability in post-war Iraq and her neighboring nations.

## 432d Civil Affairs Shares Their Perspective

Spc. Dody Beach  
432<sup>nd</sup> Civil Affairs

Being attached to another unit while on deployment can be a good or bad experience for some service members. If you've worked with different units before chances are it will be an easy transition. If you haven't then you can feel out of place and sometimes overwhelmed by the new faces and way things operate. As a member of the 432<sup>nd</sup> Civil Affairs Battalion our first assignment was to work with the 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Division. My first thought was, *"this should be interesting"*.

Not only would we be working with another unit but one from a different branch of service. That meant there would be some changes that we would have to adjust to.

For example, the Marines' rank structure versus the Army's, what the Army calls a TOC (tactical Operations Center) the Marines call a COC (Command Operations Center) or instead of going by local Iraqi time the Marines went by Zulu time. Nevertheless we began setting up and meeting everyone.

Initially things started out slow because we had to find our support chain. That in itself was a task because we didn't know who to talk to.

Sometimes you felt like you were just running in circles, but after a few weeks, things began to fall in place. Missions began running daily and everyone was working together as a team. The support we received from the 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Division was above and beyond what we expected. Because of the close working relationship and good friends that were made the hardest part was when our mission was over and it was time to leave. I can honestly say it was a great experience working with the Marines and one that many of us will not forget.

Now, there is a new chapter beginning in our deployment. We are currently attached to the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division assigned to the 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment. Our first few days were focused on getting settled in and familiarizing ourselves with the compound. Because this is our second assignment things are a little easier because we know what to expect and how to go about getting setup.

However, there were still questions to be asked and gaps to be filled. The support we have received thus far has made it possible for us to adjust and become operational in just a short amount of time.

In addition, the 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment has also brought to the table some new experiences. The

well-known Army saying "HOOAH" is now "AI-EE-YAH". You may even see soldiers in the regiment wearing a black Stetson hat and spurs as part of their uniform. And if your lucky, may even experience your first helicopter ride on one of their many aircraft. As I mentioned before, being attached to another unit can be a good or bad experience.

For 432<sup>nd</sup> Civil Affairs, this will be one we will not forget.

### QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

***One thing I know: the only ones among you who will be really happy are those who will have sought and found how to serve.***

**Albert Schweitzer**

## RCO Marks his 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday

By CW3 J. M. Hurtado

**Rifles Base, Iraq-** The Commander of the Army's only heavy armored cavalry regiment celebrated his 50<sup>th</sup> birthday while serving in Iraq recently.

Colonel David A. Teeples has been the Commander of the 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment since assuming command in May of 2002. He and his regiment, currently made up of more than 6000 troopers have been deployed in Iraq since early April 2003.

With a thunderous *"surprise"* as he entered the room, more than 50 of Teeples' Officers, Non-commissioned officers, and Troopers wished him a happy birthday. He looked shocked to see so many of them crammed

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into the small room in the 3d ACR headquarters building on Rifles Base.

After a brief speech, the Colonel helped himself to a dinner that included steak, chicken, salad, beans, bread and, fruit. There was also a large Chocolate cake that helped top off the evening.



The 70<sup>th</sup> Colonel of the “*Regiment of Mounted Riflemen*” was presented with two gifts from his troopers. The first was a large bronze bust of Saddam Hussein that will be placed in the regimental museum back at home on Fort Carson, Colorado where the Regiment is stationed. The second gift was the dedication of an indoor swimming pool in his honor.

An Act of Congress authorized the Regiment of Mounted Riflemen on 19 May 1846. Since then, this very proud Regiment has participated in 40 different campaigns with the latest being Operation Iraqi Freedom. General George Patton, the 28<sup>th</sup> Colonel of the Regiment, is among many of the fine troopers that have been assigned to this very illustrious unit.



### **3d ACR REGIMENTAL SONG**

***I LEFT MY LOVE A LETTER IN THE HOLLER OF A TREE  
I TOLD ‘EM THEY COULD FIND ME IN THE U.S.  
CAVALRY***

***(CHORUS)***

***HI, HO, OFF WE GO, A NEVER ENDING STORY  
WE’LL RIDE STRAIGHT THROUGH TO  
HELL!!AND!!BACK!!  
AND GRAB THE REIGNS OF GLORY***

***I LEFT MY LOVE, MY LOVE I LEFT, A SLEEPIN’ IN THE  
BED  
I LEFT THE SIDE OF MY TRUE LOVE TO FIGHT UNTIL  
I’M DEAD***

***IN EIGHTEEN-HUNDRED FORTY SIX, THE CALL TO  
ARMS BEGA-AN  
A REGIMENT OF MOUNTED MEN, OF MOUNTED  
RIFLEMEN***

***FROM MEXICO OUR FIRST CAMPAIGN AND THROUGH  
THE CIVIL WA-AR  
AS PATTON’S LEAD, OUR COUNTRY’S NEED AND BACK  
FROM SAUDI’S SHORE***

***THE SUN MAY SET ON ALL THE REST, BUT THEY CAN  
NEVER BE-EE  
BRAVE RIFLES, VETERANS!, BLOOD AND STEEL, THE  
BEST OF CAVALRY***



## Question of the week Why do our knuckles "Pop"?

**H**ere's the deal. The knuckle (MDs call it the metacarpo-phalangeal joint) is surrounded by the synovial fluid, a clear liquid that lubricates the joint. This fluid contains about 15 percent carbon dioxide in solution. When you crack your knuckles, you tug or twist the finger or toe with a steady effort, creating a low-pressure zone within the synovial fluid. According to the most likely hypothesis (Unsworth, Dowson, and Wright, 1971), the low pressure draws CO2 and water vapor out of solution, creating a bubble. (This process is called cavitation.) This collapses almost instantly, and the fluid crashing in from all sides makes the noise.

Once the big gas bubble has popped, a little one remains behind for about 15 or 20 minutes before the CO2 inside it is totally redissolved. During that time, any further finger-tugging simply causes the micro-bubble to expand a bit, like a tiny shock absorber. That's why you can't crack the same knuckle twice in rapid succession. (The fact that the knucklebones remain at maximum extension for a while is also a factor.) Incidentally, not all cracking noises produced by stretching--e.g., in the backbone--are the result of gas bubbles popping. Sometimes the noise is caused by a ligament snapping over some bony projection.

Will cracking your knuckles cause knobiness and arthritis, as some claim? Not necessarily; genetics undoubtedly plays a much more important role. But some clinicians believe chronic knuckle-cracking can make things worse.



*Desert Rifles* is published under the guidance of the Regimental Commander, Regimental Public Affairs Officer, and the editorial staff. *Desert Rifles* does not represent the opinion of CJTF-7, US Central Command or the Department of the Army. To contact *Desert Rifles*, send questions or comments to:

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## NFL Week 7

Teams not playing this week: Indianapolis, Arizona, Pittsburgh, and Jacksonville

Oct. 20, 2003

Monday

<u>Kansas City</u>	17	Final
<u>Oakland</u>	10	

Oct. 19, 2003

Sunday

<u>New Orleans</u>	45	Final
<u>Atlanta</u>	17	

<u>Tennessee</u>	37	Final
<u>Carolina</u>	17	

<u>Baltimore</u>	26	Final
<u>Cincinnati</u>	34	

<u>San Diego</u>	26	Final
<u>Cleveland</u>	20	

<u>Dallas</u>	38	Final
<u>Detroit</u>	7	

<u>New England</u>	19	Final
<u>Miami</u>	13	

<u>Denver</u>	20	Final
<u>Minnesota</u>	28	

<u>Philadelphia</u>	14	Final
<u>NY Giants</u>	10	

<u>Green Bay</u>	24	Final
<u>St. Louis</u>	34	

<u>NY Jets</u>	19	Final
<u>Houston</u>	14	

<u>Washington</u>	7	Final
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Tampa Bay  
San Francisco

7  
24 Final

Chicago  
Seattle

17  
24 Final



### Game 1 (in New York)

Team	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	R	H	E
FLA	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	3	7	1
NYN	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	9	0

### Game 2 (in New York)

Team	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	R	H	E
FLA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	6	0
NYN	3	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	X	6	10	2

Games 3,4,and 5 are in Florida and 6 and 7 (if needed are in New York.



*This Week in*  
**Regimental History**  
**And**  
**Traditions...**



**Regimental Grace**

The origin of this blessing is unknown, having been lost to history. It is normally presented by the Regimental Chaplain prior to the serving of the dinner at a Dining in. It reads as follows:

***Most Gracious God, who hast enriched the creation with many blessings, we now evoke thy presence with all BRAVE RIFLES gathered about these tables. May the food so plenteously supplied to us cause us to renew our expressions of Thanksgiving to Thee. May the strength received from this nourish our spiritual body.***

***Bless those who have prepared this food and those about to partake of it, in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.***